

Presentation Abstract

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Presentation: 055 - A concrete regional "One health" surveillance system and management of epidemics: a success story in the South West Indian Ocean

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Abstract: Purpose

In 2005, a Chikungunya epidemic hit tens of thousands of people in the Indian Ocean region. This event revealed that health information sharing within the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) countries (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, France/Reunion and Seychelles) was critical. At the same time, zoonoses like Rift Valley fever and other animal diseases with high economic impact like Peste des petits ruminants burst out endangering food security in the region.

Methods

To support the control of these emerging infectious diseases, two regional surveillance networks (human and animal), operational since 2009, were merged in 2013 into a unique "SEGA One health" network. It aims at strengthening surveillance systems at national and regional level, improving response to health risks and building capacity. This network is coordinated by a unit based at the IOC and involves focal points from human and animal health ministries, laboratories and research institutions. The network activities include health events monitoring through regular conference calls and meetings, web-surveillance, support for national surveillance systems and outbreak investigations, arboviruses quality control program for laboratories, training program and "one health" surveillance programs at national and regional level.

Results

A weekly epidemiological bulletin is widely distributed (240 issues since 2009), twenty outbreaks have been investigated since 2013 (plague, dengue, Rift valley fever...). Eight national surveillance systems have been strengthened with an emphasis on information and communication technologies and specific "One health" programs have been initiated such as cysticercosis in Madagascar, leptospirosis in Seychelles, antibiotic-resistance and insecticide-resistance monitoring programmes at regional level. Another originality of this network is its close interactions with researchers through regular workshops and research studies. Priorities are defined by health managers and research results are considered in State control strategy.

Conclusion: One health is no more a concept but a reality

Relevance: The only way to better understand and tackle diseases

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